

Event Program

Thursday, 5 March 2026

9:30 am	Welcome Siusan MacKenzie, ESF	1:25 pm	Leading in the Heat: A conversation with Dany Cotton about courage, leadership and cultural change <ul style="list-style-type: none">Michelle Cowling, FRVLauren McCully, CFAErika Lind, DEECANatalie Kenely, SES
9:50 am	Inclusion by Design, Not Accident <i>Facilitator Stephen O'Malley, FRV</i> Bree Gorman, Diversity and Inclusion Coach	2:25 pm	Presentation of Diversity and Inclusion Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vivienne Nguyen, CEO/Chair of the Victorian Multicultural CommissionDr Niki Vincent, Victoria's Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner
10:30 am	Grasping Opportunities <i>Facilitator Siusan MacKenzie, ESF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Irina Tchernitskaia, FRVKat Horton, DEECA		Sharing Success <ul style="list-style-type: none">Inclusivity InitiativeWomen's Equality InitiativeDiversity Champion
10:40 am	Morning Tea		
11:00 am	Emergency service through different lenses <i>Facilitator Therese Fitzgerald, EMV</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Christine Dehavilland, VicPolTheL Lay Paw, LSVKeisha Jayasuriya, AVMegan Leung, St John	3:05 pm	Afternoon Tea
12:00 pm	Impact of culture and gender on the workplace <i>Facilitator Dr Barbara Cosson, War on Wasted Talent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chris Hardman, DEECATamara Beckett, DEECAShannon Devenish, DEECA	3:25 pm	Life after the Lights <i>Facilitator Karishma Kumar, AFAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Amanda Smillie, Department of Families, Fairness and HousingErin Smith, LaTrobe UniversityDebra Richardson, Police Veterans VictoriaKate Siebert, Samphire
12:40 pm	Lunch and Networking	3:55 pm	Closing Remarks